



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation

2360 Hwy D

St. Charles, MO 63304

www.mdc.state.mo.us

2004 Coming Events...

Eagle Days January 17 & 18 Chain of Rocks Bridge

Landowner Field Day March 20 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Wetlands for Kids April 3 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Kids Fishing Fair May 15 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Prairie Days September 18 Shaw Arboretum

National Hunting & Fishing Day September 25

Call (636) 441-4554 for more information on these events.

Bring your families....

Eagle Days January 17 & 18 Chain of Rocks Bridge

Bring your family to the ninth annual Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge on Saturday and Sunday, January 17 & 18, 2004. The hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The program includes Lewis & Clark re-enactors who will have a camp set up reminiscent of the 1804 – 1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition. The re-enactors interact with the public and give visitors a glimpse of life during the explorer's time. An eagle education program is repeated every ½ hour from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Viewing scopes on the bridge permit close-ups of eagles.

For more information call (314) 416-9930 or (636) 441-4554.

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

January 2004

Volume 04, Number 01



Happy New Year! I always love the promise of a new year. As we nestle down in front of the fire, it's a time on reflection of the prior year as well as the dreams for a new one. One of the things I learned this past year was something from *you*—the readers of *Making Tracks*. Many of you told us that you wanted more activities and areas where St. Louisans can take part in conservation activities to be included. So we have done just that. The new format of *Making Tracks* features things to do at Busch, Powder Valley, Rockwoods, the Ranges, and now, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area as well. Since we're still waiting for Columbia Bottom to get on board and because it's the middle of winter, we're off to a slow start, but stay with us; the programming and events will be kicking up again soon. The new format is calendar-style, perfect for jumping to your nearest site and hanging on the fridge. We hope you'll enjoy it. Thanks for the feedback, MT readers!



One such activity we look forward to each January is Eagle Days. It's our ninth year—and it just gets better and better! Join us at the Chain of Rocks Bridge at I-270 and Riverview Drive on Saturday and Sunday, January 17 & 18, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We'll have scopes in the center of the bridge next to the warming tents, to view the eagles diving for fish and roosting in the trees along the banks of the Mighty Mississippi. Eagle programs will be offered on the half-hour and a re-enactment camp reminiscent of the 1804-1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition will offer a glimpse of life during early years of the 19th century. Plus there are food vendors and information booths. Remember to bring your old eyeglasses for the Lion's Club, who will once again be collecting eyeglasses to fulfill their mission of providing sight for those in need in third world countries.

To our *Making Tracks* Readers – Have a Wonderful New Year!

Holly B.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

January 2004 Page 4

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

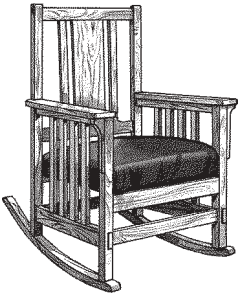
For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

5 & 26 Traveling the Lewis & Clark Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) A volunteer naturalist who traveled the Lewis & Clark trail with his wife wishes to share his experiences. (Reservations begin December 22 and January 12, respectively.)

15 Rocking Chair Story Time

*Thursday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. &
1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.*
(All Ages) Come enjoy a fun-packed time of hearing stories, using puppets and experiencing surprises galore! (No reservations necessary.)



HOMESCHOOL

27 Understanding the Predator/Prey Relationship

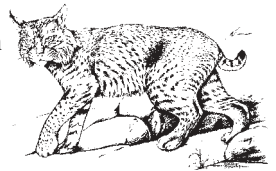
Tuesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-12 years) Predator/prey relationships are important to our food web. Learn about these relationships and the strategies used to survive. (Reservations begin January 13.)

Regal Eagles

27 Tuesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) What makes these birds so special? Find out through craft, song and pretend play. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin January 13.)

29 Missouri's Wild Cats for Kids

Thursday 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Do you know the difference between a mountain lion and a bobcat? Learn more about these big cats. Find out what evidence is used to identify and age them. (Reservations begin January 15.)

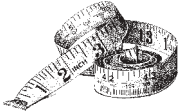


29 The Empty Nest Syndrome

Thursday 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) We'll take a quick look at some nests while indoors and, now that the leaves are all gone, head outside to see which ones we can find. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin January 15.)

January Hallway Exhibits

Powder Valley is featuring two exhibits in our Exhibit Hallway.



Quilting Nature II

Stop by Powder Valley and enjoy the world of nature through hand quilted wall hangings, pillow tops and quilt tops. Participants in the fall *Quilting Nature II* program will exhibit their works in our hallway gallery throughout the month of January.



Field Trip Fan Mail

Want to lighten your mood and improve your outlook? Come browse fan mail we've received from pre-k through 5th grade students who've attended some of our programs. Through their artwork and fun comments, you'll discover what our students have learned during their field trips to Powder Valley. Their works will be on display in our hallway gallery through the month of January.

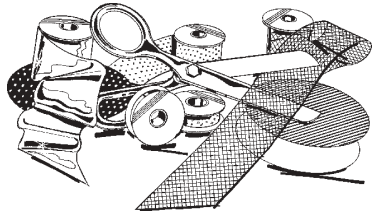


Attention Art Teachers!

Student Art Show Coming in May

Art teachers – here is your chance to display some of your students' artwork. We invite you to select and submit your students' best artwork for possible showing in our May Student Art Show. Artwork must relate to Missouri flora and fauna. We must receive it by March 31, 2004. Appropriate work will then be selected for showing. Prizes will be awarded in several categories.

Please contact Powder Valley at (314) 301-1500 for an information packet and entry forms. *This show is open to art teachers and their students, only.*



Resident Artisan Bryan K. Loy Cartoonist/Teacher



Saturday, January 24, 2004
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lower Level of the Nature Center

Join us as we welcome Bryan Loy of Dexter's Studio. Loy has been cartooning for over 20 years in the St. Louis area. He recently taught art classes at the Pattonville School District. Loy can be seen drawing caricatures at many locations including the South County Mall, Delmar Gardens and Holiday Inn Westport, generating many smiles from kids of all ages. Come have your caricature drawn to take home as a keepsake.

No registration required.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones




Karen Goellner.....1900 hours
Pat Harris.....3500 hours
Mary Hittler.....400 hours
Joan Hummel.....3100 hours

Susan Hussey.....600 hours
Audrey Kadlec.....1600 hours
Mary Piotraschke.....1500 hours
Neva Wasson.....3800 hours

David Winkler.....900 hours
Jeff Wolf.....300 hours
Marjorie Yamada.....3400 hours

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

<div><div>10</div><div>Dresser Island Hike</div><div>Saturday9 a.m. – 2 p.m.</div><div>(Adults) As the snow covers the ground during the winter months, life appears to become elusive and bleak. Join us for a leisurely hike along the Dresser Island trail as we go in search of the area’s winter residents. Possible sightings may include eagles, woodpeckers, ducks, geese and signs of smaller life. Discover the hiding places and evidence of these elusive inhabitants. Bring your binoculars, field guides and a spirit of adventure for this six-mile hike. (Reservations begin December 29.)</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>12</div><div>Bald Eagles</div><div>Monday10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</div><div>(Ages 3-6) The eagle represents freedom. Living on the tops of lofty mountains, amid the solitary majesty of nature, they have unlimited freedom. The bald eagle was chosen as the emblem of the United States of America because of its long life, great strength and imposing looks. The bald eagle’s appearance is powerful and compelling to children. They can appreciate how majestic it looks soaring and flying free in the sky. Are bald eagles bald? How big are their nests? Discover the answers to these questions and more as we soar with the eagles. Come and have fun with eagle-themed activities and crafts suitable for your young ones. (Reservations begin December 29.)</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>21</div><div>Fox in the Forest</div><div>Wednesday9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.</div><div>(Ages 3-4) Join us for story time as we explore a new book from the Missouri Department of Conservation entitled <i>Fox in the Forest</i>. This exciting story will take you on an adventure through the woods as a young grey fox explores his world for the first time. Discover what happens when the fox meets a flea, a green snake and a deer as he makes his way into his mysterious unknown world. (Reservations begin January 2.)</div><div></div></div>
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<div><div>Busch Volunteer Milestones</div><div>Marvin Staloch.....2000 hours</div></div>
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<div><div>Busch Shooting Range & Training Center</div><div>2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304</div><div>(636) 441-4554</div></div>	<div><div>Jay Henges Shooting Range & Training Center</div><div>1100Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049</div><div>(636) 938-9548</div></div>
<div><div>Registration is required and class sizes are limited.</div><div><div>2</div><div>Youth Rabbit Hunting Clinic</div><div>Friday8 a.m.</div><div>(Ages 6-15) Seminar covers safety, basics of hunting rabbits, habitat, techniques, equipment, game care and regulations. This seminar does not include a hunt; however, the area is open to rabbit hunting. Each registrant must be accompanied by an adult.</div></div><div><div>3</div><div>Beginning Air Rifle Course (BB & Pellet Rifles)</div><div>Saturday9 a.m.</div><div>(Ages 6 and up) Just got that new BB or pellet rifle as a holiday gift? Learn what to do and how to be safe in this course. Topics include safety, handling, equipment, marksmanship fundamentals and live firing. Air rifles and ammunition will be provided or participants may bring their own and their owner’s manual.</div></div><div><div>20</div><div>Handgun Care and Cleaning Course</div><div>Tuesday6 p.m.</div><div>(All Ages) Have a new handgun or even an old one and want to know the basics on how to clean and care for it? Sign up for this course to learn safety, basic parts, basic disassembly and cleaning equipment. Handguns and cleaning equipment will be provided or participants may bring their own and their owner’s manual. (No ammunition allowed!) Youths under 16 must attend with an adult.</div></div></div>	<div><div>Registration is required and class sizes are limited.</div><div><div>10 & 11</div><div>Missouri Hunter Education Student Course</div><div>Saturday & Sunday9 a.m. – 4 p.m.</div><div>(Ages 11 and up) This course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967, who wants to purchase a firearm hunting permit. Students must be at least 11 years old to be certified. Proof of age (birth certificate) is necessary for youths ages 11-13. Youths under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Topics covered during this two-day course include firearms safety, hunter ethics and responsibility, firearms and ammunition, hunters and conservation, first aid and survival. Students must pass an exam to become certified. Class is limited to 60 students.</div></div><div><div>25</div><div>Introduction to Metallic Cartridge Reloading</div><div>Sunday9 a.m. – Noon</div><div>(Adults) Learn the basics of getting started with reloading handgun and rifle ammunition. Course will cover types and selection of reloading presses, components, tools, reloading bench and cost. Class limited to 20.</div></div><div><div>31</div><div>Bird Feeder Construction</div><div>Saturday10 a.m. – Noon</div><div>(All Ages) During the winter months, people wonder how to spend their time. Why not learn a new skill? Join us and build bird feeders for your backyard viewing pleasure. Materials will be provided. Class limited to 15.</div></div></div>
<div>For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</div>	

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

9 Owl Prowl

Friday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(All Ages) “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?” Hint: It’s NOT Hedwig, Harry Potter’s snowy owl (but you WILL see one up close in this program). Meet inside the Education Center to learn “who cooks” and much more about Missouri owls. Then we’ll take a short hike (dress for the weather!) to call and listen for owls which are usually active during winter evenings in the St. Louis area. (Reservations begin December 22.)



10 A Family Affair: Making Natural Soap

Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 10 and up) Hey kids, does your mom always make you wash with soap after playing outside? Moms, have you ever wondered how to keep the chiggers away? Join us for an afternoon of fun as we try our hand at making soap the old-fashioned way. We’ll explore how wildlife played a critical role in this process and how soapmaking has changed today. Please dress for the weather, as portions of the program will be held outdoors. (Reservations begin December 29.)

14 Natural Soapmaking: Harvesting the Hunt

Wednesday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
(Adults) After a long day in the field, do you ever get that feeling that you’re not so fresh? Want to know how the early settlers kept clean? In this program, we’ll explore how the season of the harvest played a critical role in soapmaking and how the process has changed today. You’ll even get the chance to make some soap to take home. Please dress for the weather, as portions of the program will be held outdoors. (Reservations begin December 31.)

February is Maple Sugar Month
Sweeten Up Your Day with Sugary Magic

Looking for something to cure your winter blues? Feel like you can’t stay inside one more day? Well grab your coats and hats and head out to Rockwoods Reservation in February for our season of maple sugaring. You will get the chance to participate in one of nature’s most amazing gifts, learn an old Missouri tradition and join us as we tap maple trees, collect the sap and turn it into a mouth-watering treat. Make sure to look in February’s edition of *Making Tracks* for dates and times. It is sure to sweeten up your day!



Rockwoods Volunteer Milestones

Robin Gavlick.....1050 hours Joseph Ritter.....500 hours Sally Roberts.....700 hours

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

Visit www.mdc.state.mo.us/areas/areas/bottom/

17 & 18 Eagle Days

Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(All Ages) After you have visited the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge for Eagle Days, head up river a short ways and visit the Confluence Viewing Platform at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. View the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and take a look through spotting scopes at the bald eagles that are hanging out at the confluence. (No reservations necessary.)



Welcome to Columbia Bottom!

By Rhonda Anderson, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

What do prairies, bottomland hardwood forests, wetlands, crops and the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers all have in common? They can all be found at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area (CBCA). By May of 2004, you will also find “Exploration Stations” that talk about each of these unique areas. A total of nine exploration stations have been planned for CBCA. Each station will explore the importance of that habitat to the wildlife that live there or use it during migration; what plant and animal species can be found there; and how the rivers and flooding affect it. The Exploration Stations include: An introduction to CBCA, forest regeneration, big river (Missouri), prairie, wetland, bottomland hardwood forest, cropland, slough and confluence.

Keep an eye on this page for upcoming programs and discovery tables being offered at CBCA for children, adults and families.

Things to do at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area:

- Hike the 3-mile River’s Edge Trail
- Hike or bike the 4.75-mile Confluence Trail
- Fish the Missouri or Mississippi river
- View the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- Boating on the rivers (boat ramp located on the Missouri River)
- Participate in nature-related programs
- Bird watching
- Wildlife watching
- Managed archery deer hunts & managed dove hunts

LOCATION:

Located in North St. Louis County, from I-270 take the Riverview Drive exit; turn north on Riverview Drive (which becomes Columbia Bottom Road) for approximately 2.8 miles; entrance is on the right.

AREA HOURS:

April 1 to September 30 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
October 1 to March 31 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. except for authorized hunting and fishing activities.